

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

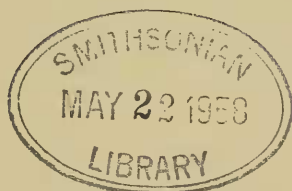
Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 513

Determination of the species to be accepted respectively
as the type species of the genera *Culter* and *Nasus* both of
Basilewsky, 1855 (Class Pisces)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 513

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Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova Italy*)
(16th December 1954)

OPINION 513

DETERMINATION OF THE SPECIES TO BE ACCEPTED RESPECTIVELY AS THE TYPE SPECIES OF THE GENERA "CULTER" AND "NASUS", BOTH OF BASILEWSKY, 1855 (CLASS PISCES)

RULING :—(1) It is hereby ruled :—

- (a) that the type species of the genus *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855 (Class Pisces), was determined by selection under Rule (g) in Article 30 by Bleeker (P.) (1863), when he so selected the nominal species *Culter alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855 ;
- (b) that the type species of the genus *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855 (Class Pisces), was determined at the time of the publication of that name by absolute tautonymy under Rule (d) in Article 30 as being *Cyprinus nasus* Linnaeus, 1758.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Bleeker (P.) (1863), as ruled in (1)(a) above : *Culter alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855) (Name No. 1264) ;
- (b) *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855 (gender : masculine) (type species, by absolute tautonymy, as ruled in (1)(b) above : *Cyprinus nasus* Linnaeus, 1758) (Name No. 1265).

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855, as published in the combination *Culter alburnus* (specific name of type species of *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855) (Name No. 1507) ;
- (b) *nasus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cyprinus nasus* (specific name of type species of *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855) (Name No. 1508).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 7th March 1956 Professor George S. Myers (*Natural History Museum, Stanford University, Stanford, California, U.S.A.*), who some years previously had communicated to the Office of the Commission a copy of a paper entitled "Ichthyological Notes" (Myers, 1940, *Copeia* 1940 : 199—201) in which he had discussed the question of the species to be accepted as the type species of the nominal genera *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855, and *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855 (Class Pisces), submitted the following application to the Commission asking for Rulings in regard to the above matters :—

Request for a Ruling as to the species to be accepted as the type species of the genera "Culter" and "Nasus" Basilewsky, 1855 (Class Pisces)

By GEORGE S. MYERS

(*Natural History Museum, Stanford University, Stanford, California, U.S.A.*)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission to give a ruling on the question of the species to be accepted as the type species of the genera *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855

and *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855 (Class Pisces). The facts of this case are set out briefly in the following paragraphs.

2. The genus *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855 (*Nouv. Mém. Soc. imp. Nat. Moscou* 10 : 236) was established for six new nominal species to which Basilewsky gave the names *alburnus* (: 236), *erythropterus*, *mongolicus*, *pekinensis*, *exiquus* and *leucisculus*. Basilewsky did not specify any of these species as the type species of this genus, but in a line by itself directly below the generic name and before mentioning any of the new species included in this genus, he wrote “(*Cypr. cultratus* Linn.)”. The first author to select a type species under Rule (g) in Article 30 was Bleeker who in 1863 (*Atlas ichthyol. Indes orient. néerland.* 3 : 33) so selected *Culter alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855.

3. Bleeker's type selection was accepted by all subsequent authors up to 1938, though Jordan (1919, *Genera of Fishes* 2 : 262), in accepting *alburnus* as the type species, added the comment:—“Basilewsky plainly intended to make his type *Cyprinus cultratus*”. In 1938, however, Dr. Hugh M. Smith (*J. Wash. Acad. Sci.* 28(9) : 407—411) advanced the view that Basilewsky himself designated *Cyprinus cultratus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 326) as the type species of the genus *Culter* at the time when he first published that generic name. Dr. Smith put forward this thesis as follows:—

In setting up *Culter alburnus* as the type of *Culter*, Bleeker and various writers who agreed with him in this course entirely ignored the fact that Basilewsky himself adopted or considered *Cyprinus cultratus* as the type of *Culter*. No other interpretation can be placed on the circumstances that, immediately after the first use of the word *Culter*, Basilewsky devoted a whole line to the words “*Cypr. cultratus* Linn.”. The case is clearly covered by the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, reference being made particularly to article 30, paragraph g, reading :

“If an author, in publishing a genus with more than one valid species, fails to designate or to indicate its type, any subsequent author may select the type.”

That Basilewsky did select a type species by “indication” seems to be fully established by the international rules and the opinions thereunder, and Bleeker's action was void.

4. Smith's reference to Rule (g) in Article 30 is clearly beside the mark, for that Rule refers only to the selection of a type species of a genus for which no type species was designated or indicated by the original author at the time of the first publication of the generic name concerned. If any case is to be advanced in favour of the view that Basilewsky designated a type species for the genus *Culter*, it must be an argument founded upon the interpretation of Rule (a) in Article

30, the Rule relating to the original designation of a type species by the author of a generic name. In the case of the selection of a type species by a subsequent author under Rule (g) there is a supplementary provision which was omitted by Smith in the extract quoted in his paper which is, however, very relevant in the present case. This provision reads as follows: "The meaning of the expression 'select the type' is to be rigidly construed. Mention of a species as an illustration or example of a genus does not constitute a selection of a type." Rule (a) (type species by original designation) does not contain a supplementary provision of this kind, but it has been the practice of zoologists to assume that the expression "designate" a type as used in Rule (a) should be construed as rigidly as the expression "select" a type as used in Rule (g). This principle seems to me to be correct and I notice that a proposal that this principle should be expressly written into Rule (a) has recently been submitted to the Commission (Hemming, 1954, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9 : 188—190).

5. I think it quite clear therefore that Smith's attempt to bring forward *Cyprinus cultratus* Linnaeus as the type species of *Culter* Basilewsky was incorrect and that the valid type species of this genus is *Culter alburnus* Basilewsky, the species so selected by Bleeker in 1863. If Smith's conclusions had been correct, the generic name *Culter* Basilewsky would have fallen as a junior synonym of *Pelecus* Agassiz, [1836] (*Mém. Soc. Sci. nat. Neuchatel* 1 : 39). This would have been very unfortunate, for the name *Culter* has been used by all workers on Chinese fishes, e.g. Günther, Bleeker, Kner, Sauvage & Dabry, Berg, Nichols, Rendahl, Chu and others.

6. The generic name *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855 (: 234) was published in a manner very similar to that in which the name *Culter* was introduced in the same paper, for, in addition to species expressly included in this genus—in this case, the single new species *Nasus dahuricus*—Basilewsky devoted the line immediately following the generic name *Nasus* to the entry "(Cypr. nasus Linn.)". It is very doubtful whether Basilewsky recognised—or was even aware of—the principle embodied nearly fifty years later in Rule (d) in Article 30 under which, where no type species is designated or indicated by monotypy for a genus and where one of the included species bears a specific name consisting of the same word as the generic name, the species bearing that name becomes the type species of the genus by absolute tautonymy. However, as *Cyprinus nasus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 325) was certainly included by Basilewsky in his genus *Nasus* and as Basilewsky (i) did not expressly designate a type species, (ii) did not include in the genus a species bearing the specific name *typus* or *typicus* and (iii) included more than one species in the genus, Rule (d) (type species by absolute tautonymy) applies automatically in this case, thus making *Cyprinus nasus* Linnaeus the type species. In this case no difficulty arises, for this species is currently accepted as the type species of *Nasus* Basilewsky.

7. No family-group-name problem arises in the present case, the genera concerned being currently referred to the family CYPRINIDAE.

8. In order finally to dispose of this matter, I now ask the International Commission :—

- (1) to rule that the type species of the genus *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855, was first validly determined when in 1863 Bleeker selected *Culter alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855, to be the type species of this genus (selection made under Rule (g) in Article 30) ;
- (2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Bleeker (1863) : *Culter alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855) ;
 - (b) *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855 (gender : masculine) (type species, by absolute tautonymy : *Cyprinus nasus* Linnaeus, 1758) ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—
 - (a) *alburnus* Basilewsky, 1855, as published in the combination *Culter alburnus* (specific name of type species of *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855) ;
 - (b) *nasus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cyprinus nasus* (specific name of type species of *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Professor Myers's preliminary communication in regard to the question of the species to be accepted as type species of the genera *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855, and *Nasus* Basilewsky, 1855, respectively, the problem so involved was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 273.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 20th April 1956 and was published on 20th July of that year in Part 5 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Myers, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 12 136—138).

4. Support Received : During the Prescribed Six-Month Waiting Period following the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* a letter of support for the action proposed was received from Miss Ethelwynn Trewavas (*British Museum (Natural History), London*). Some months after the close of the above period and therefore after the submission to the Commission of a Voting Paper on the present case a letter (dated 16th July 1957) was received from Dr. W. I. Follett (*California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.*) in which, as Chairman of the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, he intimated his support and that of three other members of the Committee for the action recommended in the present case. The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

5. Support received from Miss Ethelwynn Trewavas (British Museum (Natural History), London) : On 20th August 1956 Miss Ethelwynn Trewavas (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of the present case (Trewavas, 1956, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **12** : 274) :—

I think that Basilewsky indicated, in as clear a manner as possible in 1855, that he intended *Cyprinus cultratus* Linnaeus and *Cyprinus nasus* Linnaeus to be the respective type species of these genera. The only difference between the two cases is that it is convenient in the interests of stability to obey the rules in the case of *Nasus* and to invoke the Plenary Powers to suspend the rules in the case of *Culter* and I therefore support Dr. Myers's application.

This provides, I think an interesting test-case of the Commission's policy with regard to the weight to be given to the demands of stability.

6. Support received from the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists : On 16th July 1957 Dr. W. I. Follett, Chairman of the Committee on Zoological Nomenclature of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists forwarded to the Office of the Commission the views of those members of that Committee

who had commented on the present case. The communication so received was as follows :—

I can now report that a majority of the members of this committee approve Professor Myers's request. Their comments are as follows :—

Robert R. Miller (*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*) :

The application is concisely and logically presented and is supported by recent actions of the Commission. Essentially the same view was presented for the genus *Culter* by Myers in 1940 (*Copeia* (No. 3) : 199—201). I found myself in agreement with Myers's analysis then and still do. The application thus has my full approval.

James A. Peters (*Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island*) :

This hardly calls for comment by me, since the opinion of the Commission has apparently eliminated the argument by placing full support on Dr. Myers's arguments. It might be desirable for our committee to express support of the concept of rigid interpretation of the expression "designation of a type species," since obviously this is a desirable situation.

Hobart M. Smith (*University of Illinois, Urbana*) :

On the basis solely of information given in Myers's article and in your letter, an approval of all requests by Myers seems fully justified.

W. I. Follett (*California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco*) :

I approve of all subdivisions of Professor Myers's request as published. In my letter to the committee (October 8, 1956), I expressed the following considerations as seeming to fortify Professor Myers' position with regard to the genus *Culter* :

(1) He states (*op cit.* : 137) that it has been the practice of zoologists to assume that the expression "designate" a type, as used in Article 30 (a), should be construed as rigidly as the expression "select" a type, as used in Article 30(g). Fortunately since Professor Myers submitted his manuscript, this very point has been decided by the International Commission, in *Declaration 22*, which provides that "For the purposes of Rule (a) in Article 30 the expression 'designate a type species' is to be rigidly construed and is not to be held to cover a designation made in an ambiguous or qualified manner" (*Opinions and Declarations Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 12 : xi).

(2) Smith's argument, disapproved by Myers (*loc. cit.*), to the effect that Basilewsky did designate a type species by "indication" would appear eliminated by 1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 79, Conclusion 69 (2), which confines the use of the words "indicate" and "indication" to subdivisions (b), (c) and (d) of Article 30.

7. No Objection Received : No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

8. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)16 : On 14th February 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)16) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the generic name *Culter* Basilewsky, 1855, and associated problems, as set out in Points (1) to (3) in paragraph 8 on page 138 of Volume 12 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

9. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 14th May 1957.

10. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)16 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)16 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Boschma ; Mayr ; Lemche ; Hering ; Prantl ; Holthuis ; Bonnet ; Mertens ; Dymond ; Vokes ; Bodenheimer ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Key ; Riley ; Stoll ; Esaki ; do Amaral ; Hemming ; Kühnelt ; Cabrera ; Jaczewski ; Tortonese ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes* :

None ;

(c) *Prevented from voting by the interruption of postal communications consequent upon political disturbances, one (1)* :

Hankó ;

(d) *Voting Papers not returned* :

None.

11. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 16th May 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)16, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 10 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

12. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Opinion " : On 5th January 1958 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)16.

13. Original References : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

alburnus, *Culter*, Basilewsky, 1855, *Nouv. Mém. Soc. imp. Nat. Moscou* **10** : 236

Culter Basilewsky, 1855, *Nouv. Mém. Soc. imp. Nat. Moscou*
10 : 236

Nasus Basilewsky, 1855, *Nouv. Mém. Soc. imp. Nat. Moscou*
10 : 234

nasus, *Cyprinus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 325

14. Selection of a type species for a nominal genus : The following is the reference for the selection of a type species for a nominal genus specified in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

For *Culter* Basilewsky,
1855

Bleeker (P.), 1863, *Atlas ichthyol.*
Indes orient. néerland. 3 : 33

15. Family-Group-Name Aspects : No family-group name problem arises in the present case, for both the genera concerned are currently placed in the family CYPRINIDAE.

16. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

17. "Opinion" Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Thirteen (513) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING